

THE KEEPER

GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE

December 2025

2025 Annual Giving Report



THE KEEPERS OF HISTORIC GREEN MELDRIM HOUSE

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in May and December.



The Green-Meldrim House is
a museum property owned by
St. John's Church.



THINGS ARE LOOKING UP!! GMH Dome Conservation Project

It was just last December that we began gathering our thoughts about conserving the Green-Meldrim House (GMH) dome—a long-hoped-for St. John's Church parish house project. Now the effort is 97% complete. Only final adjustments to the LED lighting in the dome and attic remain. Otherwise, the work is finished—and the result is stunning.

For the record, here is how it all happened.

The Keepers of the Historic Green-Meldrim House first sought expert guidance from Keepers member Stewart Dohrman, owner of Dohrman Construction, who produced a detailed assessment and estimate for the project. Although the projected cost exceeded what the Keepers could afford, the clarity and thoroughness of his assessment enabled GMH leadership to move forward. Keepers President Sherry Holtzclaw consulted with St. John's Church Property Manager Sinisa Domazet about whether the project could be completed in-house. Domazet, after discussing it with Father Dunbar, agreed—provided he was given two uninterrupted months to complete the work. All agreed, and the Keepers gave the go-ahead.

With approval secured, Sinisa took the lead and moved the GMH Dome Conservation Project forward with remarkable speed, relying on in-house staff and volunteer historic preservation students. Because the work needed to occur during the slowest visitation period, the window for the project was tight: mid-August through early October. Scaffolding went up August 18 and came down October 6.

Earlier in the spring, work had already been completed on the oculus—the window at the top of the dome—as described in our spring newsletter. One detail not previously mentioned is that workers discovered one cracked glass “petal” and two



Savannah Tech students removing layers of old paint from the plaster ornamentation in the GMH Dome.

distinct types of glass in the oculus. Some panes were coated with an old silvered finish, likely intended to reflect light when the now-missing skylight was open; the others were hazier. To provide even light while obscuring the attic rafters visible through clear sections, the decision was made to frost all panes uniformly with a spray application. The restored oculus was installed at the end of the project.

Before work began, Stewart Dohrman met with Sinisa and Sherry to determine the project's scope. The key question: Should the team remove all existing paint to expose the plaster beneath? The decision was *not* to strip the dome entirely but to remove only loose paint, recast missing elements, and reveal as much of the perimeter as possible—where most visitor visibility occurs. Retired SCAD Historic Preservation professor Tom Taylor advised throughout and concurred with the approach.

An unexpected advantage emerged when Savannah Tech found itself short of historic

preservation methods instructors in the fall. Savannah Tech HP Professor Connie Pinkerton invited Sinisa to help teach, and in return her students gained hands-on experience by assisting with the dome project. After classroom lessons, students joined GMH workers in the meticulous job of removing old paint from the ornamental plaster and dome surfaces. As Sinisa explained, “In guiding the students and getting to know them, you figure out at what point you can trust them to do a task.”

Tiffany Taylor, who joined the GMH team over the summer to repair windows at the St. John's Rectory, became the project's second-in-command. A SCAD Historic Preservation graduate and one of Sinisa's former Savannah Tech students, she brought ten years of preservation trades experience—ensuring detailed tasks were handled expertly and efficiently.

The major question of the summer was the dome's color. GMH turned to historic finishes specialist and architectural conservator Francis Ford of Ford Restored (Charleston) for guidance. She was the first person up the scaffolding in August, conducting an extensive study of the dome's decorative elements and paint history. After collecting numerous samples and analyzing them under a microscope, she determined the dome had been painted three times. “Three distinct campaigns of paint are seen,” she wrote, “and a dirt layer in many samples directly on the plaster elements. This suggests there was some delay in painting the dome after installation but after the gas jets were in



Plaster ornamentation with new paint.

use.” The earliest layer—a taupe-toned neutral—was selected for the restoration. The second layer was pink, and the third a modern neutral. Using Ford's findings, Sinisa and Tiffany worked with Sherwin-Williams specialists to create an authentic, historically accurate shade.

The final component installed was the lighting, which for the first time reveals the full detail of the plasterwork. Six LED strips—two in the attic and four around the dome's lower ring—now illuminate layers of circles, foliage, acorns, and grapevines. While the LEDs do not replicate the effect of the original gas fixtures, they beautifully highlight the house's most iconic feature. Research by Tru Helms in the John Norris/Charles Green construction ledger (1850–1861) documents the original plaster elements. On February 5, 1853, architect John Norris received the “Corbel, Grape Vine, Oak Wreath, Oak Leaf and Cusp Ornament,” purchased by Charles Green from H. Sinclair of New York for \$50. Green later paid for “plastering and putting up

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DOME PROJECT:
Americana Corner – Preserve
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ornaments in the dome” on December 12, 1853. As of October 7, 2025, visitors can now see these details clearly for the first time.

Shortly before the scaffolding came down, Tiffany climbed up for a final close-up view. “It was thrilling to work on the dome, watching the workers gently pull away loose paint to reveal the plaster ornamentation,” she said. “But it was even more awe-inspiring to sit alone the day before the scaffolding was to come down and take a close look at features that will not be accessible again for decades. Awesome!”

Everyone involved in the project has been humbled by the reaction of visitors—especially St. John’s parishioners—seeing the newly conserved dome for the first time. They are awed.

Mission accomplished.



Oculus installed.

Preservation Profile: **Sinisa Domazet,** Properties Manager, St. John’s Church



I was born in Belgrade, the largest city in Serbia and one of the world’s oldest cities. I studied architecture there, but the turbulent political climate interrupted my education. In 2001, I joined my mother and sister in the United States.

Our first stop was Ohio, where my mother had an aunt. Later, we moved to California. It was here that I became an American citizen. My sister insisted that I enroll in junior college to improve my English, a decision that changed far more than my language skills.

It was there that I met my future wife, Krista, a retired ballet dancer, who was seeking a new professional chapter in life. We soon decided to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) to pursue degrees in architecture and historic preservation. Both of us graduated at the top of our classes. Between 2004 and 2008, we worked on murals and faux finishes. We never expected to stay in Savannah, but twenty years later, we are still here.

The 2008 real estate crisis changed the course of our business. As the market collapsed, we shifted more toward general contracting, though preservation work always remained at the core. Over time, I developed deep connections within the preservation community, relationships that continue to support the work I do today.

Around 2007, Krista and I completed a painting project for a neighbor of Laura Wimbish, a member of St. John’s Church. Laura, Krista and I became friends, and she later introduced us to Christiana Turner, who at the time was a leader of the Women of St. John’s Church. The house needed shingle repairs, which we handled. The vestry appreciated our work and soon invited me onto the staff to care for their buildings full-time.

Since then, I have worked closely with St. John’s Vestry Building Committee. It has been a smooth and collaborative relationship from the start. Now about twenty percent of my job is preservation. The rest involves maintenance, which is why I was 30 minutes late to this interview. Several of the 25 HVAC units for the campus we not switching over from air conditioning to heat!

When my schedule allows, I still take on preservation projects outside of St. John’s. From 2011 to 2014, I also taught historic preservation at Savannah Technical College. The program became a valuable source of volunteers and future teammates; several outstanding students, including Tiffany Taylor, joined our projects. Students worked on the Green-Meldrim House bay windows and the oriel windows in recent years.

The GMH Dome Project is one of the most visible jobs on the SJ’s campus. It was good to have Tiffany on-hand as second-in-command as well as Savannah Tech students. I am happy it all worked out between the Keepers, St. John’s and my crew. This is now something we can all be proud of.

Where's Stanley? Stanley Kirkland Green.

Following the death of her only daughter, Minnie, Aminta Green, who had a long history of being a champion of destitute women and downtrodden youths, founded, Little Minnie Mission, an asylum in Savannah to house orphan children. An April 17, 1886 article in *The Sunny South* described the youngsters in the home's care, "Some are the children of people who have seen better days, and who in dying, poor and friendless, left the world with the comforting thought that their darlings could find refuge at the Little Minnie Mission, then there are others here whose entrance within this portal meant an elevation—a lifting from the depths of poverty and its sad degradation." One of those youngsters lifted up by Aminta's kindness was Stanley Kirkland Green.

By all accounts Little Minnie Mission served a need in the Savannah community and Aminta's contribution to the city was appreciated. However, according to a *Savannah Morning News* article in May 1893, Aminta suffered "financial reverses after ...she met in the depreciation of her securities." It became necessary for her to pull her sole financial support of the mission and shutter its

doors. According to the paper, "All the children who were in the mission at the time of disbandment were provided with homes, either in Baltimore or Savannah"

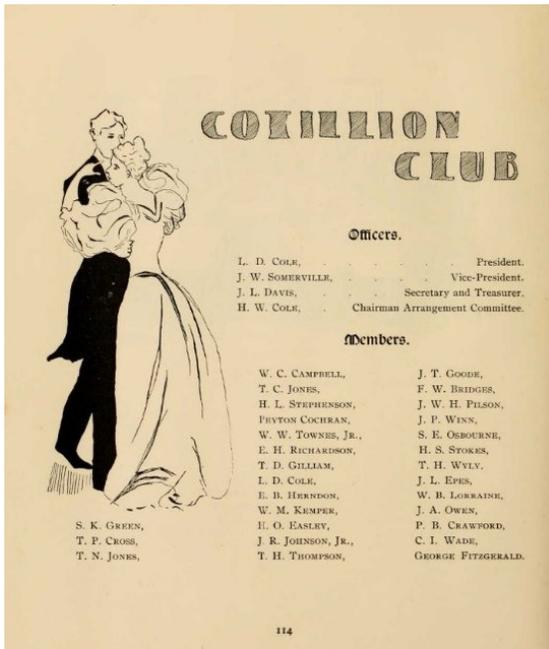
Stanley Green's earliest days remain questionable. It is possible he was one of the remaining children in Little Minnie Mission who were moved to Baltimore when it closed. A government census in 1900 would list Stanley's birthplace as Baltimore and his parents' birthplace as Georgia; however as the Maryland State Archives noted an adoption was not always a formal legal process in the late 19th century. It is possible Stanley's information was obfuscated to fit a family narrative. In 1893, Aminta appears before a Baltimore City court in an *Ex parte* case. This case likely had to do with formalizing Stanley's name change to Green. Stanley's



Stanley Green, top left, from the Hampden-Sydney College 1899 yearbook.

passport application in 1899, filled out by Aminta, has his birthday listed as 15 March 1878. This would have made him 16 years old when Aminta went to court. Regardless of when Stanley came to be adopted, Aminta provided for him as if he had been born a Green.

Like the other Green sons, Stanley was educated at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. While there he participated in Drama Club, as well as Cotillion Club, and was a devoted member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. Following school, in 1899, Aminta and Stanley traveled from New York to Genoa with the intention of staying some months. Stanley's passport application,



Hampden-Sydney College. 1899.

filled out by Aminta, says that they will return to the United States before his 21st birthday. Stanley does return to Baltimore before his birthday perhaps because he was smitten with the girl down the street, Miss Katherine Edna Hooks.

Stanley turned 21 years old on March 15, 1901. Twelve days later he was marching down the aisle in the front parlor of Jacob W. Hook. Hook, the president of Old Town National Bank, hosted the elaborate March 27, 1901 wedding of their nineteen-year-old daughter, Katherine and a 21-year-old Stanley. According to *the Baltimore Sun* article, the room was “decorated with white lilies and palms. The bride wore white satin trimmed with duchesse lace and a white tulle veil held by a bouquet of

orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley.” Attending the ceremony there were many members of her family and some members of his family, including Aminta’s brother, Richard and his family, as well as Lt. Veeder, who was married to Charles Green’s youngest daughter, Mary. Missing from the article

as being in attendance was Aminta. This may have just been an oversight on the reporter’s part or she may have been in Europe. It is likely Aminta was still in Paris as part of the McCall Mission, an evangelical speaking tour to turn French people away from Roman Catholicism and towards Presbyterianism. The newlyweds were heading to France immediately following the ceremony and would stay there until September.

Katherine and Stanley enjoyed travelling. Society columns in the Baltimore newspapers note that the pair is frequently on the go. In 1902, they went to Old Orchard Beach, Maine for the summer to stay with Aminta. Over the next five years they made multiple jaunts to Florida and Cuba, sometimes stopping

in Savannah along the way. As the years progressed, Mrs. Stanley Green was often making these trips alone, or with her parents. After they were married, Stanley’s father-in-law had set him up in business. In 1902, Monumental Manufacturing Co. was incorporated with Stanley serving on the board of directors. The company manufactured tin specialties. Stanley held a number of patents such as one in 1903, for making Julep Tubes. The Monumental Manufacturing Co. did not live up to its name. From the very start the family venture was plagued with issues. In 1902, mere months after incorporating, the company was hit with a lawsuit relating to their use of child labor. Maggie Wallace, 12, lost her fingers in a stamping machine. The next year, thirteen-year-old Charles Mitchell’s fingers were cut off by a cap cutter. Digitless children were the least of the business’s problems, however. Misappropriation of funds was abundant and the business was in receivership by 1907. Jacob Hook wanted his son-in-law gainfully employed nonetheless, and funded the creation of the Stanley K. Green Co. This manufacturing venture required Stanley to make frequent business trips to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.. It looked like Stanley was in good form to establish himself

as a premier business leader in the Northeast. In 1908, Aminta died and Stanley was left a considerable fortune, \$30,000 (over a million dollars today) in her will.

Aminta may have thought enough of Stanley to leave him a large portion of her estate but her extended family had doubts about him. In her book, **With Much Love**, Ann Green, the grand-daughter of Charles Green, recounts that, "The child's (Little Minnie) death was such a sorrow that Mint (Aminta) treated herself to a rich woman's folly and adopted a boy whose every feature proclaimed that he would lie, cheat and betray the old lady to her end. As indeed he did, for no education, love or kindness could change Stanley." Aminta's brother, Richard Fisher's estate also had issues with Stanley inheriting part of the Fisher family fortune and contested Aminta's will. The court established that as an adopted heir, that part of the fortune did not belong to Stanley. A court would later overturn this ruling but at the time, it did not benefit Stanley.

The loss of anticipated money and frequent travel, or perhaps as the Green's thought, Stanley was just inherently bad, put a strain on his young marriage. In 1911, less than ten years after

saying I Do, Katherine filed for divorce from Stanley on the grounds of abandonment and infidelity. Stanley was seen leaving a New York hotel with another woman.

We believe Stanley would go on to marry again to a young woman from Utah named Faye Stewart. She would die during the influenza outbreak in 1918. He would marry a third time, in 1929 to Margaret Burke, a woman 25 years his junior. Stanley's adult years are as obscure as his earliest years. It is possible that he abandons manufacturing in Baltimore and in 1916 moves on to work in real estate. Eventually he goes to work for one of New York's most noted property management firms, Charles F. Noyes Company, and specializes in renting retail chain store spaces. By 1928, he rose to be the President of the Noyes National Realty Corporation.

Stanley's whereabouts after the 1929 market crash are murky. A 1933 New York City telephone book lists Mrs. Stanley K. Green living at 238 W, 11th St. If this is Margaret Burke, it is unknown if Stanley is still living or if they are living apart. Her obituary in 1947 lists her as the beloved wife of Stanley, indicating that he may still be alive. She is buried in a Catholic

Cemetery in Washington, DC. Marrying a Catholic is certainly something his very devout Presbyterian mother would not have appreciated. An obituary for Stanley has not been located. This is unusual as he was a notable figure in early 20th century New York society. A grave marker does exist for a Stanley K. Green, though it is not known if it is our Stanley. Faye Green's husband, Stanley, is buried beside her at Greenwood cemetery in Brooklyn. He passed away in 1955. The mystery continues though, as it lists his birthday as 1893 not 1878. Is this the wrong Stanley, did he alter his birth date, did the people who interred him make a mistake? At 77 years old, Stanley may have been alone, with no one to consult with or write an obituary. Stanley's life appears to come full circle -born friendless and obscure, transformed by good intentions, only to rise from adversity and in the end returned to obscurity. For Stanley Green, like many of the other children of Charles Green, being raised in piety, wealth, and privilege did not ensure a happy, easy life.

Jennifer McCarthy

Director's Corner

GMH Tours - "Guaranteed Humanity!"

Today, as I listened to a podcast about AI, and the debate over whether the construction of vast "data centers" is becoming "a bubble," one phrase stood out: **"guaranteed humanity."** There are entities, including iHeart Radio, which espouse, at the behest of customers and clients, a "desire for authentic connections in a tech-saturated world". For the radio, I guess that means they guarantee a disk jockey is doing the programming instead of a machine or algorithm. And, in so doing, they keep the human touch and keep people employed. On hearing that, I thought about tours.

For years colleagues have sought ways to incorporate

technology into historic house visitor experiences using apps, QR codes, AI, virtual reality, augmented reality, etc., thinking it would entice new audiences into their sites and engage them once they are there. The quality and value of the time-tested "method" of people talking to people, such as on a tour, gets overlooked or discounted as being "old school." It is affirming to see energy being placed into the espousal of the human connection over technology-driven media.

We "do" the human connection here very well. The only way visitors can access the full depth of the GMH's story is with a human by taking a tour. We are often asked, "*Can I just look around?*"—a practice we discourage. Why? Because walking around looking at rooms is not interpretation. Houses do not interpret themselves. We invest considerable time in training and supporting our docents so they

can offer the best possible experience to our guests, explaining about the house and the people who "built, lived, worked and made history here."

Our commitment to personal connections pays off. We now have over sixty adult volunteers, with a new class of docents and greeters coming online soon. These seasoned adults deliver an experience that is the envy of many historic houses particularly those that find it difficult to attract good workers -- particularly volunteer workers. The quality of what they do is reflected in the volume of positive comments in our guest register and on social media.

And there is more good news: as of Thanksgiving, we welcomed seven new Youth Guides from Savannah Arts Academy, all eager for the opportunity to lead tours. They join the ten high school students already serving as guides.

Every one of our Tour Guides, Greeters, and Youth Guides takes pride in sharing the beautiful and fascinating Green-Meldrim House. They are trained to present a knowledgeable, credible story. For the foreseeable future, GMH will remain a place of **"guaranteed humanity,"** where everyone wins—the visitor, the guide, and the house itself.



Jamie Credle



Newly trained GMH Volunteers.



Newly trained Youth Guides.





A portion of the GMH Volunteer Corps.

IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE

Were the happiest Christmas exercises. Santa Claus entered almost every household with gifts for young and old. Little feet pattered and little voices warbled in the most earnest of holiday joyousness. What a prolific stock of dolls, and wealth of playthings and hordes of candy the old Saint distributed! The purchases of Christmas gifts were more numerous this season than before for years, though economy often substitutes simple mementoes for the costal presents of more prosperous times. Few were without a Christmas dinner. How the turkeys smoked, and the plum-pudding steamed, and the Christmas pies abounded, and the egg-nog sent forth its fragrant odors! Merry Christmas! Its romping, its gayety, its innocent festivities and recreations and family reunions, make enduring the rowdyism, and drunkenness and all the coarser exhibitions that come along in its train . . .

Daily News and Herald. December 27, 1867.

UPCOMING FOR YOU!

Thursday, March 12 at 6 p.m.

GMH PARLOR PRESENTATION entitled

Shopping in New York for a Savannah House, 1850-1855.

The speaker will be **JOHN WARD**, Art Consultant and former Senior Vice President, Head of Silver and Vertu Department, Sotheby's, New York.



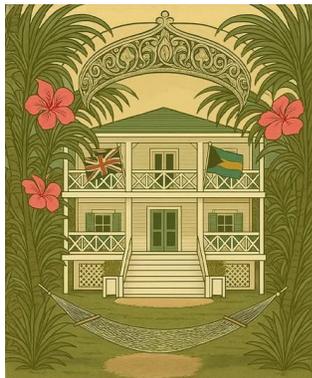
Thursday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

GMH PARLOR PRESENTATION entitled

Clermont Lee: A Pioneering Woman in Landscape Architecture.

The speaker will be **CED DOLDER**, retired historic preservation professional, formerly with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Preservation Division.

The program will be presented in conjunction with the Andrew Low House.



SAVANNAH ANTIQUES AND ARCHITECTURE WEEKEND

**BRITISH ROOTS;
ISLAND STYLE**

FEATURING INDIA HICKS

MARCH, 5, 6, & 7, 2026



The Green-Meldrim House benefits from the Savannah Antiques and Architecture Weekend.

GMH WINTER AND SPRING 2026 CALENDAR:

MONDAY, JANUARY 12 FROM 5 TO 7 P.M. – **Commendation of the Gathering of Leaders on January 12, 1864: 20 African American Ministers Met with General Sherman and Secretary of War Stanton in Charles Green’s Home.** Free public program.

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAY EVENING IN FEBRUARY AT 5:30 P.M. – **Potable Gold: Savannah’s Madeira Tradition.** (Friday, February 6, Saturday, February 7; Saturday, February 14; Friday, February 20; Saturday, February 21; Friday, February 27; Saturday, February 28)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 FROM 2 UNTIL 5 P.M. – **SuperMuseumSunday**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT 5:30PM/PROGRAM AT 6PM – Savannah Chapter/Victorian Society in America, Inc. Topic and Speaker TBA

MARCH 5 THROUGH 8 – **Savannah Architecture and Antiques** weekend “British Roots/Island Style with India Hicks

- **Thursday, March 5 - Meet & Greet Reception with India Hicks**
- **Friday, March 6 - Grand Gala and Auction at Green-Meldrim House**
- **Saturday, March 7 from 9 to 11 a.m.—GMH/SAAW Special—**Tea, treats, tour, Charles Green/English connection
 - **Luncheon and Book Signing with Keynote Speaker, India Hicks /Plant Riverside District's Amethyst Ballroom**
 - **Private Home Tour**

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 AT 5:30PM/PROGRAM AT 6PM - Savannah Chapter/Victorian Society in America, Inc. Topic and Speaker TBA

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 AT 6 P.M. **GMH Parlor Presentation:** “Shopping in New York for a Savannah House, 1850-1855” with John Ward, Art Consultant

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 AT 6:30 P.M. – Green-Meldrim House/Savannah VOICE Festival: Salon Series/Music *in Bloom.*

THURSDAY, MAY 21 AT 6 P.M.—Preservation Month /Historic House Collaborative—**Clermont Lee: A Pioneering Woman in Landscape Architecture** with Ced Dolder, retired preservationist

SPRING PROGRAMS

SATURDAYS IN APRIL AND MAY – Early Bird’s Walking Tour/Urban Landscape—Heart of the Landmark District
WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL AND MAY—House/Church Combo Tours



Green-Meldrim House

Presents

A Holiday Evening Performance

CHRISTMAS IN WARTIME

Performances: Thursday, December 26.

Friday, December 27. Saturday, December 28.

Times: 6, 6:30, 7, & 7:30 each night.

Each performance lasts 60 minutes.

Living history performers in period costume will recount stories of how the holidays were celebrated in Savannah during the Civil War years.

Experience music, dancing, parlor games and ghost stories.

Purchase tickets online: GreenMeldrimHouse.org

Adults: \$19 in advance. \$21 at the door.

Students (6-17): \$15 in advance. \$17 at the door.

Reservations recommended. Attendance is limited.

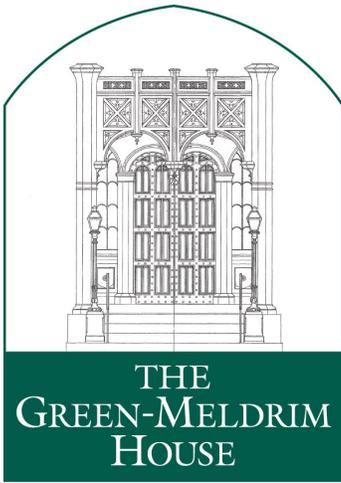


Green-Meldrim House

14 W. Macon Street on Madison Square

912-233-3845, info@GreenMeldrimHouse.org

A Gothic Revival gem, General W. T. Sherman's Civil War Headquarters



Donation Form

- \$60 — Individual
- \$100 — Family
- \$250 — Sustaining
- \$500 — Steward
- \$1,000 — Norris Society
- \$2,500 — Pressly Society
- \$5,000 — Green & Meldrim Society
- \$10,000 — 1850 Society
- Other: \$ _____

Gifts solely support the Green-Meldrim House and are fully tax-deductible.

Donations accepted online.

Donations include free admission and invitations to programs.

Title(s) Full Name(s)

Address 1

Address 2

City State Zip

Telephone

Email

- Check Enclosed, payable to Green-Meldrim House
- MasterCard Visa AmEx Discover

Credit Card No.: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code (CVV): _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE is open for tours five days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with the last tour beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Tours will begin every hour and half hour.

SOPHIE'S SHOP, the GMH Gift Shop, will be open all tour hours.



Green-Meldrim House

P.O. Box 11061
Savannah, GA 31412